

HOW TO DEBATE A JBS MEMBER.....revised 02/06/18

As a public service, I am creating this “*How to Debate a John Birch Society Member*” webpage.

What will distinguish this webpage from other types of analyses or commentaries regarding the John Birch Society is that I am going to quote extensively from a typical message posted online by a JBS member and then provide a detailed critique of it.

The JBS members who most frequently attack me online are using the following screen names:

ConPatriot1234

LindaJJ

Revamadeus

Jim Smith

Charles Thompson

ThompsonSOS (which may be an alternate name for Charles Thompson)

CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPICAL JBS MEMBER

It does not normally matter which JBS member’s comment is chosen as representative of JBS thinking. It also doesn’t matter which subject matters are chosen as examples of erroneous JBS analysis or conclusions

because **every** JBS member just repeats the indoctrination which they have received from Birch Society headquarters or which they absorb from JBS literature.

In other words, Birchers function like Communist Party members. They are given a specific “*Party line*” to defend and to circulate and then they all repeat it, almost verbatim, without ever doing any independent research or ever engaging their critical faculties. Consequently, one Bircher argument is virtually identical to every other Bircher argument.

For the purposes of this webpage, readers may wish to review some of the extensive debates which I have had online with JBS members and JBS sympathizers. I am providing links below to some of the more interesting or significant debates.

You will notice that many of the same subject matters are brought up each time but, usually, JBS members withdraw from the debate after a short time (typically only after they make rude and malicious comments about the honesty and integrity of anybody who dares to criticize the JBS). Their withdrawal frequently occurs when a critic has presented inculpatory evidence against the JBS which the JBS member has no ability to refute.

Often, a JBS member will say something like he/she “***doesn’t have the time***” or the desire to address all the alleged “***lies***” and “***smears***” presented against the JBS. However, this is just code language for a convenient all-purpose intellectual escape hatch – because most JBS members do not have knowledge regarding the more unsavory aspects of JBS history – so they just suddenly leave the battlefield with the odor of their supposed victimhood in the air.

You will also notice some common debate tactics used by Birchers – such as what I list below. **Many examples of these JBS tactics or these fallacious JBS forms of reasoning will appear below:**

1. Lowest-common-denominator reasoning
2. Ad hominem slurs

3. Inability to present factual evidence to support their assertions instead of just presenting their unsubstantiated personal opinions [Note: It is not always apparent that JBS members even know the difference between a FACT versus an OPINION. They seem to use these terms interchangeably]
4. Unwillingness to accept normal rules of evidence and logic (related to #3)
5. Use of straw-man arguments
6. Inability to accurately quote or paraphrase what a critic has said or written or correctly summarize what a critic believes (which usually leads to Birchers presenting a straw-man argument instead)
7. Inability to make careful distinctions (often resulting in use of false analogies)
8. Refusal to acknowledge publicly that any JBS critic or perceived opponent might be an intelligent, honorable, principled, and patriotic person
9. Attributing the worst possible motives or qualities to any person who does not share JBS viewpoints (even though they are total strangers)
10. Refusal to candidly admit error **OR** refusal even to acknowledge that more research is required by the JBS member because their current understanding may be incomplete or flawed.
11. Pretending that some derogatory judgment which the JBS first expressed 20, 30, or 40 or more years ago is no longer worth discussing even though the JBS has NEVER retracted its original position and it still quotes or paraphrases that same position in its contemporary literature
12. Pretending that there is a moral equivalence between the JBS and other persons whom, in previous decades, may have expressed viewpoints which are now discredited—EVEN THOUGH the non-JBS person(s) CHANGED their views over time whereas the JBS never did.

13. Refusing to candidly acknowledge instances when the JBS has previously effusively praised and recommended sources of information as indisputably reliable and authoritative IF those same sources can be used to contradict and refute what the JBS prefers to believe.

14. Pouncing upon the most picayune omission which is **not** central to whatever point is being made and then pretending that small omission completely discredits whatever else has been written by a critic

One of the most important factors to understand about JBS members is their pervasive sense of victimhood. JBS members of all ages and backgrounds genuinely believe that they have been unfairly and maliciously attacked for decades.

As a corollary to this belief, Birchers proceed from the premise that decent, moral, intelligent, and principled people who join the Birch Society or who present its views should NEVER have their judgment questioned, or their personal opinions criticized, because Birchers think that such skepticism or criticism amounts to a personal attack upon their intelligence and their moral character or even their patriotism. **In other words, in the JBS scheme of things, “good people” cannot possibly be gravely mistaken.**

Birchers believe the JBS is infallible - which explains why the JBS has never acknowledged any major substantive error in its entire 60-year history, i.e. it has never retracted any derogatory statement, assertion or conclusion which it has made about any person, organization, event, or controversy—even though the JBS considers itself to be (and it is incorporated as) an “*educational organization*”.

Oddly, however, Birchers have no problem attacking critics of the JBS in the most defamatory and malicious fashion imaginable without considering that their own behavior could be interpreted as pertinent evidence of some defect in JBS manners or in JBS character.

One more commonplace attitude among Birchers is deserving of comment: **their profound anti-intellectualism**.

Normally, when someone decides to specialize in (or carefully research) a particular subject matter, we refer to those folks as “experts” or “scholars” or “analysts” OR perhaps we just use the more generic term “researcher”.

For instance: many of our country's most prominent award-winning journalists and scholars have devoted very long periods of their life to discovering, studying, and analyzing currently available and/or newly discovered evidence about all sorts of subject matters.

It is not uncommon to find out (for example) that a researcher has found never-previously-known documentary evidence which is archived in some collection of personal papers donated to a college/university or located at a state historical society or perhaps the new info was discovered in files or documents obtained through FOIA requests to government agencies. It also is not uncommon for a researcher to find a new oral interview transcript or recording OR perhaps a researcher will interview somebody with highly pertinent knowledge who has never been interviewed previously.

Consequently, it is not surprising to learn that the author of a publication (i.e. a new book, article, webpage, conference paper, doctoral dissertation or master's thesis) may have spent many months or even many years doing research into the subject that interested them - and, during that process, they discover information never previously known.

While most of us celebrate such intellectual curiosity and that kind of persistence and tenacity, Birchers come to a totally different conclusion IF that researcher discovers information which Birchers think is not favorable to the JBS. Birchers contemptuously dismiss or de-value the endeavors of such researchers as an “***obsession***” or perhaps even as “***a vendetta***” against the JBS! [Again, this pervasive sense of victimhood is paramount within how Birchers perceive their world.]

LINKS TO MY DEBATES WITH JBS MEMBERS

- 02-23-17: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/feb/23/alt-right-ethno-nationalists-tossed-from-cpac-boun/>
- 06-16-17: <http://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2017/06/16/letter-to-the-editor-kociela-lies-about-the-john-birch-society/#.WlpQlqhKuUk>
- 07-16-17: <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/pj-gladnick/2017/07/16/politico-absurdly-hypes-supposed-resurgence-john-birch-society>
- 08-12-17: <https://www.sltrib.com/pb/opinion/letters/2017/08/12/letter-beware-the-koch-influence-on-campus/comments/>
- 09-16-17: <https://bangordailynews.com/2017/09/15/opinion/saturday-sept-16-2017-john-birch-society-smear-time-for-medicare-for-all-defend-ranked-choice-voting/comments/>
- 09-17-17: <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2017/sep/17/fighting-off-a-racist-label-20170917/?opinion>
- 11-08-17: <https://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/l-brent-bozell-iii/life-liberty-and-decency>
- I also include the following link because it reflects a debate I had with LEFT-wing critics of the JBS who accused me of being “***PRO-Birch***” because I corrected their errors and defended the JBS against caricatures and falsehoods being presented in this comments section
- 01-04-13: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2013/1/4/1176367/-America-Now-Has-a-Three-Major-Political-Parties>

THE DEBATE OVER “RACISM” and the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

If you want to produce **immediate** outrage from a JBS member which then produces immediate strident rebuttals as well as vicious personal attacks upon any JBS critic who introduces this topic for discussion -- then just post anything online which Birchers interpret as linking the JBS to either racism or anti-semitism.

Although it is true that, over the past 6 decades, there has repeatedly been unfair, inaccurate, and malicious criticism of the JBS, nevertheless the responsibility for those unfair or flawed critiques must be shared by the JBS and its members for three reasons:

(1) The JBS as an organization refuses to allow outside independent researchers to have access to its historical records so that a fact-based account of JBS history can be written AND the JBS also refuses to permit researchers to select a representative sample of their membership for survey purposes to learn what JBS members believe and to arrive at a fact-based profile of the membership. [See note #1 below].

(2) JBS members are extremely hostile toward anybody who attempts to survey them to develop an overall description of member's beliefs and background. This is particularly true if the researcher presents any information which Birchers interpret as potentially critical about the JBS. [See note #2 below]

(3) Without exception, JBS members and JBS officials are totally unwilling to candidly acknowledge indisputably factual, accurate, and truthful details regarding their own history (*even if it comes from other JBS members!!*)—if such details could be interpreted as adverse information about the JBS. In other words, like the Communist Party, the JBS considers “**fact**” or “**truth**” and “**reality**” to consist of only that information which reflects favorably upon the JBS as an organization and reflects positive qualities about the persons associated with the JBS.

Note #1: Because Birchers love to pounce upon any small detail which, if omitted, they then claim discredits everything a critic writes, I need to point out that in the 1960's, the JBS did cooperate with Dr. John A. Broyles for his doctoral dissertation which was later published as a book by Beacon Press in 1964 with the title "*The John Birch Society: Anatomy of a Protest*". However, the survey conducted of JBS members at that time was not a scientific sample and it was limited to a very small number of members whom the JBS chose.

Note #2: In 1984, after I received the first 15 sections of the FBI HQ main file on the JBS (62-104401), I prepared a summary of what I found in that file. I then sent it to 100 JBS members (including chapter leaders, section leaders, coordinators, and National Council members). Enclosed with my summary was a brief questionnaire along with a postpaid return envelope. The questionnaire asked for basic background info (age, how long a member, and a checklist to indicate which publications the members considered reliable) and a couple questions about the FBI. I also asked for JBS member evaluation of the information shown in the FBI file. ***Not even one member returned my questionnaire.***

As often is required when debating a JBS member (or any political extremist) we first must define our terms, so that we begin with a common understanding.

So.....What is racism and WHOM is best able to recognize it?

The major problem which Birchers have when discussing this subject is that they do not seem able to define what racism is nor are they seemingly able to understand the various forms (direct and indirect or overt vs subtle) by which racism can be expressed.

Generally speaking, Birchers want us to accept only literal, explicit, and overt expressions of racism as valid exemplars of what racism means.

Let me briefly comment here about something which I experienced from one of my LEFT-wing critics (Paul Trejo) because it illustrates how use of false or inadequate criteria can warp our ability to recognize racism.

For many years, I have defended the JBS against bogus arguments presented online by Paul Trejo and Harry Dean (a former JBS member).

Trejo and Dean claim that JBS members financed and executed a successful plot to murder President John F. Kennedy. [Dean claims to have been an eyewitness at meetings where the plot was discussed.] One of the alleged plotters (according to Trejo and Dean) was JBS member Maj. General Edwin A. Walker of Dallas Texas.

Trejo rejected my description of Edwin Walker as being an indisputable "racist". Trejo claimed that Walker could not be accurately described as racist because Walker supposedly never used the n-word nor did he ever join an overtly racist organization like the Ku Klux Klan. In Trejo's scheme of things, these were the only two criteria worthy of consideration for a serious discussion of racism in our country.

Similarly, Birchers do NOT believe that the intended victims and targets of bigotry and prejudice have the capacity to recognize the persons and organizations (and arguments) which are intended to harm the victims. The JBS routinely rejects accusations of bigotry directed toward specific persons when those reports originate

from prominent organizations which historically have done the most to combat bigotry or discrimination – such as ACLU, NAACP, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, etc.

Birchers have a hard time answering these types of questions:

1. are Catholics and their fraternal organizations able to recognize anti-Catholic bigotry?
2. are Jews and their fraternal organizations able to recognize anti-Jewish bigotry?
3. are Muslims and their fraternal organizations able to recognize anti-Islamic bigotry?
4. are African-Americans and their fraternal organizations able to recognize anti-black bigotry?
5. are Asians or Hispanics and their fraternal organizations able to recognize anti-Asian or anti-Hispanic bigotry?
6. does any rational person in our country believe that the United States has never experienced ANY systemic bigotry during our country's history?

7. How was that systemic bigotry created and enforced? What arguments were used to defend and perpetuate it?

In fact, according to Robert Welch:

"In our opinion, for instance -- and we might add, in the opinion of many of the best informed and most courageous Jews themselves -- the so-called Anti-Defamation League, which ostensibly was founded to prevent or diminish anti-Semitism, has actually done more over the past few decades to ***promote*** anti-Semitism than all of the Gerald L.K. Smiths and Richard Cottens put together. For the ADL's power and prosperity as an organization has depended on an increase rather than a decrease of anti-Jewish feelings. And in subtly provoking this increase, they have, of course, mightily helped the Communists which has certainly been the purpose of some of those involved." and

"For many years, the Communists, using the ADL as a front, tried by extremely intensive and expensive propaganda to have the American people simply take for granted that the JBS was a racist and anti-Semitic organization." [Robert Welch, *JBS Bulletin*, May 1993 - "*If You Want It Straight*" which reprints a speech made by Welch in 1969. "**Promote**" italicized in original document for emphasis.]

This type of statement by Robert Welch is noteworthy because:

(a) it reveals a circular argument and

(b) it reveals a typical snide Birch debate tactic -- i.e. the use of pejorative verbs, adverbs, and adjectives to communicate derision, sarcasm, and contempt --- such as "**so-called**" and "**ostensibly**"

A circular argument begins with an unproven (and usually false or grossly misleading) predicate. However, it is proposed that all subsequent analysis and discussion and conclusions be based upon the unproven (and often false) predicate.

In the example above, Welch associates "*Communists*" with civil rights and civil liberties organizations (which poisons all subsequent discussion).

Then, Welch attempts to dismiss, de-value, and de-legitimize ALL evidence of bigotry occurring within the JBS if such evidence originates from persons/groups which are critical of the JBS.

Consequently, the circular argument is completed:

(a) nobody should trust reports by civil rights and civil liberties organizations because

(b) such groups contain Communists and they facilitate Communist purposes and

(c) therefore, reports by civil rights and civil liberties organizations are unreliable and false because the JBS is incapable of any sort of prejudice or bigotry

EXPLICIT HATRED versus SOFT RACISM

EXPLICIT HATRED:

The most obvious form of racism is the type which is explicit and often deliberately cruel.

An obvious example (with respect to African-Americans) can be seen in literature published by the KKK, the American Nazi Party, the National States Rights Party, and other white hate groups. Also, the behavior of their members is relevant.

There are vicious references in publications of white hate groups to black Americans (hate groups often use the ***n-word*** or the ***c-word***) and, frequently, the proponents of explicit hatred attempt to justify their position by referring to “*studies*” which “*prove*” the moral and intellectual inferiority of non-Caucasian individuals. Also, hate groups focus upon what they describe as “*statistical evidence*” of disproportionate incidence of crime, drug use, illegitimate children, welfare dependency, AND “*subversive*” and “*un-American*” associations by African-Americans.

With respect to behavior – everyone is probably generally familiar with both the successful and the botched crimes (often violent) committed by KKK members or by other explicit racists (such as National States Rights Party members). They have bombed churches, committed arson, murdered civil rights workers, participated in lynchings and castrations or other bodily mutilations.

In addition, explicit racists have used their positions in government, in law enforcement, in civic organizations and businesses, and in the media and in the clergy and religious institutions to harass, demean, denigrate, and intimidate minorities and to prevent minorities from having access to public facilities (such as “*whites only*” parks,

swimming pools, playgrounds, public schools, churches, drinking fountains, etc.). And, of course, they have done everything possible to prevent African-Americans from either registering to vote or actually voting.

WHAT WAS THE RATIONALE USED BY and WHAT WAS THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF SEGREGATIONISTS?

Racial segregation was the practice of restricting people to certain circumscribed areas of residence OR restricting them to separate institutions (for example: schools and churches) and facilities (parks, playgrounds, restaurants, movie theaters, restrooms) on the basis of their race or alleged race.

Racial segregation provided a means of maintaining the economic advantages and superior social status of the politically dominant group and it was employed primarily by white populations to maintain their ascendancy over other groups by means of economic, political, legal, and social color bars.

"Ascendancy" refers to the laws, customs, and practices which assured that the dominate power and influence and control of society and all of its institutions would perpetually remain in the hands of caucasians. This is also known as defending white privilege.

As one historian has written, the JBS usually was ***"on the side of white southern segregationists on any issue involving race relations at home and decolonization abroad."***

In other words, in every instance where there was a choice, the JBS chose to align itself with the politicians, the institutions, the laws, and the customs and practices which assured the ascendancy of the prevailing white power structure in our southern states. This occurred EVEN WHEN those persons had indisputable connections to overt segregationists and racists who considered black Americans to be intellectually and morally deficient beings.

Typically, a JBS member will refuse to accept ANY evidence which betokens support for white privilege. Instead, contemporary Birchers demand to see literal quotations from JBS literature that affirms the idea of the moral and intellectual inferiority of African Americans. Anything less (in the Birch scheme of things) amounts to ***"lies"*** and ***"smears"*** against the JBS and its members.

SOFT RACISM

After the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court de-segregation ruling, there was an explosion of new “*states’ rights*” organizations in our southern states. They were created under many different names.

In addition to the national umbrella organizations (such as Citizens Councils of America or the Federation for Constitutional Government), there were also state associations (such as Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi and Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties in Virginia or the States Rights Council of Georgia). These state associations assisted local communities with the formation of local chapters at the county and the city level.

When many of these organizations were created, they sometimes appealed to the more “*respectable*” elements inside their communities. By “*respectable*” I refer to the better-educated and more prosperous individuals who did not want their names or reputations associated with appeals to violent or illegal activities that normally were linked to Klans or other white hate groups. However, the ideological premises of the “*soft racists*” were almost identical to those of the Klan albeit sometimes sanitized to eliminate the more objectionable extremist aspects.

It should also be noted that even though these “*soft racist*” groups may have explicitly rejected Klan tactics, the politicians associated with these *soft racist* groups were almost always endorsed by the Klan as well as by all other white supremacist organizations in our country.

For example: the Klan praised and supported the Governors and the U.S. Senators and the U.S. Congressmen from Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, and South Carolina. Examples include: Sen. Strom Thurmond (SC), Gov. Lester Maddox (GA), Gov. Ross Barnett (MS), Gov. Marvin Griffin (GA), U.S. Senator James O. Eastland (MS), Gov. George Wallace (AL), Gov. Orval Faubus (AR), Cong. John Rarick (LA).

When prominent racists from these states decided to pursue some local, state, or federal political office, **OR** when they were nominated by third parties (without their knowledge), the Klan and white-hate groups often joined with the “*soft racist*” groups in supporting and promoting those individuals. Examples include the nominations or candidacies of Sen. Strom Thurmond, Gov. George Wallace, Gov. Orval Faubus, Gov. Lester Maddox, T. Coleman Andrews

Sr., Thomas J. Anderson, Cong. John G. Schmitz, John G. Crommelin, John Kasper, J.B. Stoner, and Col. William Potter Gale.

For more specific details regarding the pragmatic alliances between explicit racist and soft racist groups –see:

James Graham Cook: *The Segregationists* (Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1962)

George Lewis: *The White South and the Red Menace: Segregationists, Anticommunism, and Massive Resistance 1945-1965* (University Press of Florida, 2004)

Neil R. McMillen: *The Citizens Council: Organized Resistance to the Second Reconstruction 1954-1964*, (University of Illinois Press, 1971)

Michael Newton: *The National States Rights Party: A History* (MacFarland and Company, 2017)

Stephanie R. Rolph: *Resisting Equality: The Citizens' Council 1954-1989* (Louisiana State University Press, June 2018)

Francis M. Wilhoit: *The Politics of Massive Resistance* (B. Braziller, 1973)

Clive Webb: *Rabble Rousers: The American Far Right in the Civil Rights Era* (University of Georgia Press, 2010)

Jeff Woods: *Black Struggle, Red Scare: Segregation and Anti-Communism in the South 1948-1968* (Louisiana State University Press, 2004)

One should remember that the primary arguments created by explicitly racist organizations were “*normalized*” and promoted by the “*soft racist*” groups and their offspring—such as the State Sovereignty Commissions – all of which served as clearinghouses for pro-segregation and anti-integration propaganda. Soft racists wanted to maintain segregation and Jim Crow laws, customs and practices. Their only real objection to Klan-type groups and behavior was their violent and criminal activities.

ROBERT WELCH’S METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFYING ENEMIES

For purposes of our discussion we must first introduce ourselves to the underlying principles which Robert Welch wanted us to accept so that we could recognize whom should be considered a dangerous, subversive, and un-American individual.

The following quotation by Welch comes from his speech to the first meeting of the JBS National Council in January 1960:

"In the Senate, there are men like Stephen Young of Ohio, and Wayne Morse of Oregon, McNamara of Michigan, and Clifford Case of New Jersey and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Estes Kefauver of Tennessee and John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, whom it is utter folly to think of as just liberals. Every one of those men is either an actual Communist or so completely a Communist sympathizer or agent that it makes no practical difference..."

So, Welch asks us to believe that there is “***no practical difference***” between:

- (1) An actual member of the Communist Party versus
- (2) A Communist sympathizer versus

(3) An “agent” of the Communist Party (also known as an enabler who facilitates accomplishment of the objectives of the Communist Party)

The distinction between a sympathizer and an agent is a very subtle one which probably escapes most observers, but I will attempt to explain it below.

For our discussion, let's use this EXACT SAME WELCH LOGIC with respect to there being "*no practical difference*" between

(1) a vicious racist bigot (i.e. someone who believes African Americans are morally and intellectually inferior beings who must be kept perpetually separate from, and subordinate to, Caucasians AND

(2) someone who sympathizes with the explicit racist bigot, but he might never say so publicly OR someone who begins their comment with "*I am not a member of...*" (enter name of noxious racist group here) **"BUT"** [there is always a "**but**" appended to the rest of their comments which then expresses approval, agreement, or support in some manner.] AND

(3) someone who functions as an "agent" of the explicit racist bigot---(also known as someone who acts as an enabler of bigotry).

This can be accomplished by publicly supporting at least some of the same objectives or policy proposals of the explicit racist bigot as well as by circulating at least some of the same arguments which the racist prefers OR by somebody who recommends some of the same authors and sources of information favored by the bigot OR by somebody who provides some type of support to and/or endorsements of racists, **BUT** the agent will insist that he/she is NOT prejudiced and we should just totally ignore all their links to bigots.

NOTE: In some cases, the *“agent”* (aka enabler) may even convince himself that he does NOT possess any racial animus, but, significantly, he reflexively defends white privilege plus all existing status quo power relationships which always keeps African-Americans in their subordinate position. Consequently, the agent may

verbally criticize “*extremists*” and criminals such as the Klan but the agent **never invalidates or seriously works to reverse the laws and customs which keep African Americans impotent.**

More importantly, this person or organization cannot really provide significant compelling AFFIRMATIVE evidence to demonstrate how or when they have done anything to bring public awareness to the legitimate social or economic or political grievances which minorities experience in their everyday lives nor can they provide any compelling evidence of how and when they helped redress those legitimate grievances. In previous decades, this person was known as a ***fellow-traveler***, i.e. a person who sympathizes with and often furthers the ideals and program of an organization without having membership in the group or without regular participation in its activities.

One more point about enablers which is pertinent.

In both law and morality, silence is normally considered consent. The operative principle in Latin is:

"Qui tacet consentire videtur", i.e. ***he that holds his peace gives his consent.***

Often this is accompanied by ***"ubi loqui debuit ac potuit"***, which is, ***when he ought to have spoken and was able to***.

Thus, when confronted with the question of determining whether a person or an organization is honorable, fair-minded, principled, and committed to decency, fairness, and truth -- there MUST be indisputable evidence that the person/group has a record of candidly acknowledging and then correcting its own mistakes as well as accurately identifying social injustices. "*Silence*" is NOT an option.

Lastly, there are both tacit and overt enablers. The tacit enabler stays silent when he should have spoken out. The overt enabler supports bad behavior or bad ideas or policies by providing material assistance in the form of money, approval/praise, employment, publicity, etc.

Given this background, I will present the case below for why the Birch Society can legitimately be considered as “*an agent*” for the perpetuation of racism in our country.

If we use Robert Welch's "***no practical difference***" logic, then we must ask and answer the following questions.

WHY did Robert Welch....

- (a) ask well-known segregationists and white supremacists to join the JBS? **AND**
- (b) invite prominent segregationists to become JBS National Council members (on paper, the Council is the governing body of the JBS)?

Note: In 1963, Welch asked Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina to consider accepting appointment to the JBS National Council but Thurmond declined. Thurmond is perhaps best remembered as the 1948 candidate for President on the States' Right Party ticket. Thurmond declared in one of his speeches, that: "I wanna tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that there's not enough troops in the army to force the Southern people to break down segregation and admit the Nigra race into our theaters, into our swimming pools, into our homes, and into our churches."

AND

- (c) accept arguments that were first created by white supremacists and then use the JBS to promote and circulate those arguments? **AND**

We must also ask and answer the following questions about the John Birch Society

- (a) Why did the Birch Society hire notorious racists as speakers under the auspices of its American Opinion Speakers Bureau?
- (b) Why did the Birch Society decide to disparage our entire civil rights movement and claim that it "***served only Communist purposes***"?

- (c) Why did the Birch Society recommend J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI as an authoritative, reliable source of factual information about internal security related matters but then NOT tell JBS members that Hoover and the FBI **rejected and falsified** JBS arguments and conclusions about our civil rights movement?
- (d) Why did the Birch Society decide to NOT inform its members about the grave situation which existed in our southern states in terms of the **systemic** bigotry, oppression, intimidation and harassment which suffused almost all the institutions which minorities relied upon to protect them?
- (e) Why did the Birch Society exploit and magnify every instance of what it considered evidence of some “*subversive*” or “*radical*” association by persons connected to our civil rights movement as if only villainous and sinister radicals and “*outside agitators*” could be involved in anti-Jim Crow and anti-segregation and anti-racist activities---while, simultaneously, the JBS chose to NOT inform its members about the overtly racist background of people whom the JBS paid to be officials of the JBS or to be JBS speakers and writers?

LET'S NOW BEGIN REVIEWING EXAMPLES OF JBS MEMBER ARGUMENTS

The first example is from Jim Smith here: http://www.journal-advocate.com/sterling-columnists/ci_31587266/honoring-dr-king

I am choosing Jim's message because it contains so many falsehoods and fallacious arguments which are typical of the problems with JBS member “*reasoning*” and behavior.

Anti-Birch Obsessive Ernie Lazar is wrong (as usual). The newly released FBI documents I referred to exposing King's top advisor as a communist are covered here: <https://www.thenewamerican....> The reason we celebrate Dr. King today is because we have been fed a false version of history that concealed the truth about King's true words and deeds. Not only did the JBS never side with white supremacists (unless you mean in the sense of they like apple pie, we like apple pie, therefore we're the same, which is an elementary logical fallacy). In fact JBS expelled racists and anti-Semites throughout its history, as Ernie knows very well.

Sometimes even members of Congress were expelled for these issues. Interesting that you mention Wallace and that some JBS members supported him (JBS has never endorsed a politician and never will). I think what's much more relevant is that for virtually his entire political career, Wallace was a Democrat. Ask yourself, why is Ernie obsessed with a few JBS members supporting Wallace, but never mentions that Democrats supported Wallace so much that they elected him over and over again? The argument that a white supremacist may have distributed JBS literature is also a logical fallacy. JBS distributes the book *Tragedy and Hope* as well as the *Communist Manifesto*. That does not mean it agrees with Karl Marx or globalist Carol Quigley, lol. I'll point out for the record that Ernie knows for a fact that argument he is trying to make by insinuation is false. If you google it, you will find massive essays by Ernie proving without a doubt that the JBS has always been opposed to racism. Notice also that Ernie did not address the substance of my comments, he simply copied and pasted a bunch of logical fallacies having nothing to do with the subject at hand. Now that Ernie's dishonesty and logical deficiencies have been exposed, I will leave and let Ernie spew some more of his venom uncontested.

1. First, notice how Jim begins with the insult “***Anti-Birch Obsessive Ernie Lazar***”. Although Jim inserts my name into his message, the reality is that Jim normally would insert the name of ANY Birch Society critic because Jim (like all other Birchers) believes that there is no such thing as an honest, principled, or intelligent JBS critic. Furthermore, Jim never accuses any JBS supporter of being “*obsessed*” no matter how many pro-JBS comments they post online (and several JBS members have posted three or four times as many messages as I do). “***Obsession***” in the JBS scheme of things is a quality limited exclusively to JBS critics or opponents.

2. Jim claims that “***we have been fed a false version of history***” re: MLK Jr. and then Jim includes a link to a November 6, 2017 article published in the JBS magazine, *The New American*, about an FBI document which was part of the huge release of documents which NARA posted on their JFK-website during 2017. Those NARA docs may be seen here: <https://www.archives.gov/research/jfk/2017-release>

In another message which Jim posted on this subject, Jim began his message with the comment: “***Recently declassified FBI documents actually prove that King's top advisor Stanley Levison was a known communist.***”

This is totally absurd. The declassified documents about Levison were released decades ago. The recent NARA release contains **nothing new!**

3. As I have previously explained to Jim and to other JBS members who have made the same assertions as Jim, they are totally ignorant about this subject.

The information summarized in the JBS magazine article has been available for over 30 years. As I told Jim, I received many of the pertinent FBI documents in the 1980's and 1990's through my FOIA requests on the CPUSA as well as on MLK Jr and about other related subjects.

Furthermore, so have other people. The **1981** book by Pulitzer-Prize winning historian Dr. David J. Garrow (*The FBI and Martin Luther King, Jr.: From "Solo" to Memphis*) contains the same information about Stanley Levison and his brother Roy. It also contains the information re: Hunter Pitts Odell and Bayard Rustin. In addition, a lot of the derogatory information about King was originally supplied or confirmed by Rev. David Abernathy. He was a close associate of King's in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. For example see this October 1989 article in the *Chicago Tribune*: http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1989-10-20/news/8901230874_1_ralph-david-abernathy-king-poor-people-s-campaign

4. With respect to Martin Luther King's other peccadillos (plagiarism, adultery, etc.), those matters were also revealed and discussed decades ago. Other award-winning historians have written extensively about all these subjects including Taylor Branch in his 2007 book, *"Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63"* as well as by Dr. Claiborne Carson, the Director of Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute.

5. In summary: the **"false version of history"** which Jim Smith breathlessly reports and claims to be so upset about – is nothing more than Jim Smith's profound ignorance about the state of MLK Jr. scholarship.

6. Significantly, Jim Smith (and other Birchers) are willing participants in an ongoing campaign to spread **"a false version of history"** with respect to the John Birch Society but that apparently doesn't bother any of them. Lastly – when Jim and his fellow Birchers make these sensational claims it is **not** because they want to perform any sort of genuine educational function. They just search for anything which they think can be used to slime and diminish the people they do not like.

7. Next – Jim pretends that he understands what a “**logical fallacy**” is when he writes:

“Not only did the JBS never side with white supremacists (unless you mean in the sense of they like apple pie, we like apple pie, therefore we're the same, which is an elementary logical fallacy.”

The first thing we need to do here is examine Jim's apple pie analogy.

I know this might seem frivolous, but it reveals a fundamental defect in JBS reasoning which we need to identify because Birchers routinely employ this type of fallacious reasoning. This is a prime example of how Birchers want us to use lowest-common-denominator (LCD) reasoning to arrive at a conclusion.

When making comparisons, one must choose some characteristic which is uniquely present in order to make some kind of rational and pertinent distinction. Let me illustrate the problem by this example of LCD:

All cats have 4 legs

All elephants have 4 legs

Therefore, all cats must be elephants and vice-versa

The ultimate logical defect here is that the number of legs which any animal has is NOT a uniquely distinguishing feature which enables us to make rational distinctions between and among them.

For example, we cannot tell from the number of legs, which animal is a domestic animal versus only found in the wild. We cannot make rational conclusions about their food preferences simply based upon number of legs. Nor can we make any rational conclusions about their temperament or their reproductive behavior or their lifespans or their geographical locations or any other subject. That is always the problem when using LCD "logic" and THAT is why it is always listed as a type of fallacious reasoning.

Similarly, food choices are not dispositive evidence of anything. If Charles Manson prefers apple pie and most Birchers prefer apple pie, does that mean most Birchers are depraved psychopaths?

NOW---let's turn our attention to the REAL subject, i.e. white supremacists.

What Jim attempted to do is use both **mis-direction** and LCD to prevent us from making fact-based judgments about our own history.

White supremacists refers to a unique category of human beings who have a specific prejudice about other human beings **which they base upon assumed adverse racial characteristics**.

This discussion is NOT about what types of food white supremacists prefer to eat nor is it about their favorite TV shows nor is it about what color they prefer when they purchase a vehicle or a coat or shoes. Instead, this is about their **racial IDEAS, VALUES, and BEHAVIOR** and how those affect their conclusions about another entire category of human beings.

I know Jim actually understands this concept because the Birch Society would NEVER apply Jim's stupid example to excuse or diminish the ideas, values, and behavior of any LEFT-WING person or organization. **The ONLY reason Jim introduced his phony "apple pie" analogy is to preclude us from reaching rational fact-based conclusions about the history of the John Birch Society.**

Let's now address that history.

Jim claims that the JBS "never" sided with white supremacists. What does "sided with" mean? It means to support, favor, align, or take the same position.

Once again, if we were discussing a LEFT-WING person or organization, Jim Smith would have NO problem understanding what "sided with" means and he would NEVER give a "pass" to ANY left-wing individual or group if they seemed to be supportive of, or aligned with, the Communist Party.

For clear and voluminous evidence of this point, see the four-volume "*Biographical Dictionary of the Left*" published by the Birch Society. This is a compilation of assertions by the JBS regarding about 1200 left-wing persons and organizations. The JBS presents their case about whom these leftists supposedly "**sided with**".

Here are just a few ways in which a person or organization can "**side with**" another person or organization or movement which is RACIST:

1. They can reprint articles or speeches made by racists.
2. They can publish or circulate arguments first created by racists.
3. They can hire speakers or writers who are racists or recommend their publications.
4. They can recruit racists as members, endorsers, or officials for their own organization.
5. They can promote political figures who are racists (promotion can take many forms including friendly interviews, publicizing their public events, selling or recommending their publications, ignoring or minimizing bad behavior by those favored persons or groups -- to name just a few forms)

Significantly, the Birch Society has an extensive record of doing everything listed above.

Once again, if Jim Smith was presented with evidence about a LEFT-WING person or organization which did everything listed above – Jim would NEVER dispute a conclusion that such person(s) or groups were racist. He would also NEVER dispute such a conclusion if it could be applied to LEFT-WING individuals and organizations which were linked to the CPUSA!

ONLY when we discuss the Birch Society, does Jim Smith (or any other Bircher) want us to totally ignore bad behavior, or indisputable connections to racists).

7. The next false assertion by Jim Smith in his message is that the “***JBS expelled racists and anti-Semites throughout its history.***”

This is partially correct, but it totally omits the more relevant detail.

Racists and anti-semites were knowingly hired by Robert Welch and by the JBS and they were solicited as members and endorsers. **The key point here is** that as long as they kept their bigoted viewpoints to themselves and they did NOT try to hijack their local JBS chapter and they never said or did anything which directly connected the Birch Society to their bigotry, then they were welcome to stay in the Society.

A good example for understanding this point is the internal controversy which culminated in March 2006 about speeches made by former JBS President, John McManus. Prior to becoming President, McManus was the Public Relations Director of the JBS.

A major internal controversy developed when senior JBS leaders discovered that McManus was making explicitly anti-Semitic comments during his speeches before traditionalist Catholic organizations. Both the current CEO of the JBS (Art Thompson) and the former CEO (G. Vance Smith) recognized that if McManus's comments became public knowledge, those comments would be disastrous for the JBS.

The former Senior Editor of the JBS magazine (the late William Norman Grigg) posted several articles on his blog re: this matter.

<http://jbsrip.blogspot.com/2010/06/mcmanus-credo-dulce-et-decorum-est.html>

Grigg observed:

“The source of those accusations is a large and enviably well-documented dossier compiled by Art Thompson, who had become alarmed over Jack's anti-Jewish agitation no later than 2000. Jack's side career as a Jew-baiter made him (and the JBS) vulnerable to blackmail during the 2005 management struggle.

When an effort was made to blackmail Jack, I resigned my job in disgust and, to an extent, his defense -- not because I sympathized with his bigoted views, but because I couldn't countenance the use of criminal means to settle a leadership dispute. At the time I knew nothing about Jack's views beyond the clips I had been shown by his critics in the previous JBS administration, and the fact that he had used the repellent expression ‘*slimy New York Jew*’ in a conversation. After Art Thompson was appointed CEO, Jack asked me to re-join the staff. It wasn't until Don Fotheringham used his website to publicize the Art Thompson-created dossier on Jack that I learned that he had spent years propagating anti-Semitic nonsense, while pulling down a pretty decent salary to be the figurehead president of the JBS. He did so in prolonged, conscious defiance of the Birch Society's principles. This is why he was -- at Art Thompson's initiative -- removed from his position as JBS president. As the effort to blackmail him in 2005 demonstrates, Jack's actions directly threatened the very existence of the organization.”

THEN, the only Jewish member of the JBS National Council (the late David Eisenberg) contacted McManus to ask him to explain his anti-Semitic remarks.

McManus's first reply did not satisfy Eisenberg. Eisenberg wrote a 7/19/00 letter to McManus in which he asked: ***"How can we say that JBS is not anti-Semitic when the President speaks thus?"***

McManus initially apologized for what he called his ***"ill-considered outburst"*** but Eisenberg was skeptical of the apology. As Eisenberg pointed out:

"I suspect that the speech was put down on paper and used by the speaker at the March 24th engagement. If this is true, then, the 'ill-considered outburst' was a planned event. This bothers me, since the implication is that those words represent true feelings with respect to Jews and the Catholic Church as viewed by Mr. McManus."

"Hoping that no damage has been done to the Society doesn't solve the problem which has been created. While I don't know for sure, I do suspect that damage has been done, and the results not yet realized. We are responsible for our acts (unless our name is Clinton). Mr. McManus is responsible for any damage coming as a result of this unfortunate speech...."

"But, this 'outburst' projected from his being, to a gathering of his co-religionists, causes me to feel that irrational anti-Jewish thoughts are a part of the man when he addresses attacks against the Catholic Church. None of which is a part of The John Birch Society."

"What makes this most difficult to accept, is the fact that he is the President of The John Birch Society, and no matter where he may speak, he is recognized as a spokesman for the Society. In this position, he has no personal statements to make, even if he would first set up some disclaimer."

"The letter of July 25th contains no assurance that this 'ill-considered outburst' won't happen again."

In another letter to Jack dated August 18, 2000, Eisenberg continued to try and settle his feelings toward McManus:

"You refer to the 'ill-considered outburst.' Jack, you composed your speech with those words of associating Jews with Masons. I don't feel that this was an 'outburst,' but rather a prepared part

of your speech. Was it '*ill-considered*' because of your position with The John Birch Society, or was it '*ill-considered*' with respect to Jews? My feeling is that you claim '*ill-considered*' reflecting your position with the Society. This leaves me to think that your, sometimes irrational, defense of the Catholic Church, is no different from the manner in which the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) '*defends*' Judaism; in a manner less than true....However, I cannot understand the '*outburst*' unless there is some very real anti-semitism within your character." ...

"If harm comes to the Society as a result of your '*ill-considered*' comments, I shall be very unhappy. I have had to explain to all too many of my coreligionists for too many years, that JBS is not a danger to us, but rather a defense against our assured destruction. You, in this speech, have harmed my credibility. If there has been mass distribution of this speech, I would be afraid of the results."

Ultimately, to keep the internal peace within the JBS, Eisenberg accepted McManus's "*explanation*" – but there is considerable additional evidence about McManus's true beliefs which comes from people who had direct personal encounters with him.

In addition, even Robert Welch wrote letters which (when read by persons of the Jewish faith) could easily undermine whatever defense someone like Jim Smith might want to make. Here are two examples:

April 4, 1962 Robert Welch letter to Verne Kaub:

"Actually, and I am sorry to say, we do not have too many Jews in the JBS. This is partly because a smaller percentage of the Jewish people in America as a whole are true conservatives, than of the total population. But it is even more because of the greater pressures and dirtier pressures, which are put on them, against standing up for what they believe...But when you get into the Zionist picture, I repeat that you cannot think any less of the whole government of Israel or of the whole Zionist conspiracy than I do; except that I think its relative importance in the total importance in the whole picture has greatly decreased over the past three decades. Someday...I should be glad to exchange views with you...as to what has really taken place since around 1905 when I think the Zionist conspiracy -- and from then on for perhaps two decades --- was practically the father of the International Communist Conspiracy. Today I personally think that the relationship is almost exactly reversed, and that the child had now so far outgrown the parent in size and strength and importance that the parent is in a

relatively minor position. But this does not make Golda Meir or Ben-Gurion or any of their extremist followers in this country any less culpable..."

AND: February 10, 1961 Robert Welch letter to Dr. Lawrence A. Lacey of Madison WI:

"To me it seems likely, Dr. Lacey, that in 1900 or 1905, at the time of the first Russian Revolution which was led by Trotsky, or in 1917, or even up to the middle 1920's, the Communist Conspiracy was largely a child or at least a ward of the Zionist conspiracy. And for the reason Jews were preponderant in the top levels of the Communist hierarchy. But it seems equally clear to me that by 1937 or 1938, when Stalin had finally succeeded in taking into his own hands all of the reins of Communist power stretching out all over the world, the child had quite largely outgrown the parent as so often happens in the case of organizations as well as individuals. There followed a period where the Zionist conspiracy and the Communist conspiracy undoubtedly worked closely together, each one hoping and counting on 'using' the other, and coming out on top. But it seems equally clear to me today---and that that this has been completely true for at least the past 15 years--- the Communist conspiracy has now absorbed into itself so many other leaders and elements, and has so outgrown the Zionist conspiracy, that it completely dominates the picture and that the Zionist conspiracy has itself become merely one of the tools of the top Communist command."

Welch asked Verne Kaub (the leader of the American Council of Christian Laymen in Madison WI) to become a JBS member. Kaub declined because (he said) there were "*too many Jews*" in the JBS. Then Welch asked Kaub to become an official endorser of the JBS. Even after Kaub made his Jew-hatred very clear to Welch in multiple letters, Welch sent Kaub everything which a JBS member received.

8. With respect to Jim's assertion that the JBS "*expelled racists...throughout its history*", there is no possible explanation for Jim's comment other than Jim Smith being deliberately disingenuous.

Robert Welch grew up in a very small southern community (Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina) where segregation and Jim Crow practices prevailed. As a result, Robert Welch recognized segregation as a natural occurrence which is probably why he discovered many segregationist friends during his trips around the country as an officer of the National Association of Manufacturers and his trips as Vice President of Sales for his brother's candy company.

To make this as clear as possible for Jim Smith: **ALL segregationists are racists**. The very definition of segregation includes “***separation of access to facilities, services, and opportunities such as housing, medical care, education, employment, and transportation along racial lines.***”

In our southern communities, there were “*whites only*” signs posted to limit locations where an African-American (or other persons of color) could walk, rest, sit, eat, drink or go to the bathroom. **So let’s not pretend that Robert Welch and the JBS did not know what segregation meant.**

When Welch created the Birch Society, he **asked** some of his segregationist friends to become members or officers of the JBS. At least four members of the JBS National Council (on paper, its governing body) were life-long segregationists: T. Coleman Andrews Sr., A.G. Heinsohn Jr., Thomas J. Anderson and Dr. Thomas Parker.

Let’s briefly consider two of them: Coleman Andrews and A.G. Heinsohn Jr.

T. COLEMAN ANDREWS:

Coleman Andrews was the States Rights Party candidate for President in 1956. He also was endorsed by the Constitution Party. His running mate was Thomas Werdel. You may read about that here:

<http://www.ourcampaigns.com/PartyDetail.html?PartyID=45>

As pointed out in every standard history of the States Rights Party (see this quotation from article above):

"The States' Rights Party broke from the Democratic Party in 1948. The Party opposed racial integration and wanted to retain Jim Crow laws and racial segregation. The party slogan was 'Segregation Forever!' "

Numerous racist individuals and organizations endorsed the Andrews-Werdel ticket in 1956. Coleman Andrews and his son also participated in the formation of the pro-segregation *Patrick Henry Group* in Virginia. Of course, none of this bothered Robert Welch.

A.G. HEINSOHN JR.

In order to understand Heinsohn's beliefs and values, one must become familiar with the organizations he associated himself with:

FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT:

In June 1955, Heinsohn joined the Tennessee chapter of the Federation for Constitutional Government and he served on its Advisory Board. The FCG was an umbrella organization to coordinate anti-integration efforts of many of the white supremacy organizations in southern states such as the White Citizens' Councils along with various "state's rights" groups which were created to defend segregation. The Tennessee chapter of FCG was headed by Donald Davidson.

The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture describes Davidson as follows:

"Davidson, who considered African Americans racially inferior, defended segregation as a social institution developed by white southerners to preserve their culture and identity. In the 1950s he headed the pro-segregation Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government..."

CONSTITUTION PARTY:

The Constitution Party was founded in May 1952. Its first Chairman and Co-Chairman were Suzanne Silvercruys Stevenson and Percy L. Greaves Jr. but they both resigned in September of that year because of what they described as anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic sentiments within the Party [See: *Chicago Tribune*, 9/1/52, "Constitution Party Aides Quit; Race Bias Hit"]. After their resignations, the CP was taken over by its most extreme elements and many of them would later join the Birch Society.

In 1956, Heinsohn became the East Tennessee Chairman of the Constitution Party (CP). An article published in the August 17, 1956 issue of the *Knoxville TN Journal* entitled "**Heinsohn ET Chairman of New Party in State**" quotes an official of the Party stating that the CP believed in "**fair and just segregation**".

Obviously, Welch never “expelled” any of his segregationist buddies from the JBS.

9. THE WHITE CITIZENS COUNCILS MOVEMENT

The JBS welcomed members of the White Citizens Councils (and similar white supremacist organizations) into their ranks as members, as chapter and section leaders, and as Coordinators. For example, JBS Coordinator Medford Evans, along with Louis Hollis, and William J. Simmons were all major officers within the White Citizens Council movement.

Medford Evans was not only the JBS Coordinator in Louisiana and Mississippi, he also simultaneously was the editor of the national Citizens Council's magazine (*The Citizen*). In 1959, Evans was also Secretary and Chairman of the Organization & Strategy Committee for the pro-segregation States Rights Party of Louisiana. Evans was a professor at the Northwest Louisiana College, Natchitoches, Louisiana, but he was fired because of “**his anti-integration policies.**” In September 1962, Evans gave a speech in Danville, VA during which he stated that segregation “**is as American as the Constitution...and even older.**”

REV. DELMAR DENNIS

See Report about Delmar Dennis at: <https://archive.org/details/dennis-delmar>

In March 1964 (before the FBI contacted him about becoming their informant inside the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi) Dennis joined the White Knights. Even before he joined, he attended Klan meetings. When he subsequently testified about why he joined, Dennis said: “**Mr. Killen explained first of all what a fine organization that it was, that it stood for Christianity and American Constitution and that it was for the purpose of segregation and preservation of the white race.**”

After a brief period inside the White Knights, Dennis became somewhat disenchanted, so he considered joining a different Klan – i.e. the United Klans of America. By March 1965, Dennis's home was being used for UKA obligation ceremonies. On July 28, 1965, Dennis accepted a position within the UKA as Exalted Cyclops.

The FBI Special Agent in Charge of the Jackson MS field office wrote in a summary memo about Dennis that:

"Informant is widely known in rural Mississippi as an ardent segregationist...He founded the First Southern Methodist Church in Mississippi, which church was founded for the sole intent of maintaining racial segregation."

The wife of JBS National Council member Tom Anderson, also a segregationist, sent a congratulatory letter to Dennis in April 1963, when his whites-only church began operating.

In addition, Dennis was a member of Americans for the Preservation of the White Race. In 1964, he wrote a pro-segregation pamphlet entitled *"The Unconquerable Land"*.

In that pamphlet, he wrote on page 5: ***"While the rest of the country looks upon the people of Mississippi as being ignorant I am sure that Mississippians know more about the Bible, constitutional government, and individual responsibility than people of any state in the Union. My state has been smeared by the communists and comsymps because it reportedly does not hold sacred the negro race...The negro has demanded many things which he is not willing to pay for with hard work."***

Pg 6: "It is regrettable (sic) that anyone should die violently in our state. We do not know, however, who the killers are. It may well be that these young men were sacrificed by their own kind for publicity or other reasons."

The page 6 reference is to the murders of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman in June 1964 and it is typical of how racists in the south always attempted to blame outsiders for any crimes committed by racists inside Mississippi.

Ironically, despite Dennis's 1964 claims about his state's supposed superior understanding of the Bible and of constitutional government, and of individual responsibility, just a short time later, Dennis told his FBI case agent that:

"I have learned that the Klan uses meetings of the John Birch Society, Masons, and Americans For the Preservation of the White Race to solicit members for the Klan. The Auxiliary Police in Neshoba County is a front for Klan membership in Neshoba County."

AND

"The Klan in Mississippi has completely infiltrated every phase of the legal, political, social and economic system in Mississippi. The membership in the Klan ranges from common laborers and criminals, to judges, lawyers, doctors and political leaders. While they may not be active members, they are secret members who use their influence to further Klan efforts and aid Klan activities, for example, it is generally known in Klan circles that supervisors who pick juries use their influence to get Klan members on the jury panel."

Dennis was Chairman of the White Citizens Council in Lauderdale County MS as well as Chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the White Citizens Council chapter in Meridian MS. In November 1965, Dennis attempted to organize a pro-segregation group in his community, called the Patrick Henry Society.

Dennis also served on the Board of Directors of the White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund.

Bill McIlhany is the JBS member who authored the book, *Klandestine*, about Dennis's experiences within the Klan. McIlhany sent me the following information in April 2006:

"1. The Society hired Dennis as a Coordinator in the San Fernando Valley of southern California in the early 70s. He also lectured about the KKK for the JBS speaker's bureau."

2. I was disappointed that [JBS] editor Scott Stanley NEVER reviewed *Klandestine* in *American Opinion*. He also published an article in AO praising Elmore Greaves, who ran the KKK-fundraising front I described in *Klandestine*, the so-called White Christian Protective and Legal Defense Fund. When I asked Scott about

this, he said, *“You can fight the klan if you want. I’ll fight the Communists.”* Which indicated he had not read my book.

3. Medford Evans, father of M. Stanton Evans, wrote many articles and book reviews in AO, many of which were excuses for essays he wanted to write rather than real book reviews. He had expertise about Soviet theft of the atomic bomb. But he was also heading up the White Citizens Councils in Mississippi, which I thought was rather embarrassing. I visited him when I lectured in Jackson, Mississippi, in the early 70s. It was clear that he did not like what Delmar did.”

Evans (like many other white supremacists in the south) thought that Rev. Dennis should never have informed against the KKK.

Furthermore, Rev. Delmar Dennis told his FBI case agent that *“numerous members”* of the JBS in his local Mississippi community resigned from the JBS in protest, after Dennis surfaced as an FBI informant and then testified against KKK members.

This hostility within the JBS in Mississippi toward Dennis was present even though Dennis was a life-long segregationist himself! [Note: The JBS Coordinator in Mississippi (J. Vernon Pace) confirmed to the FBI how hostile local JBS members were toward Dennis].

In January 1968, FBI HQ approved a request by the Special Agent in Charge of the Jackson MS FBI field office to pay \$4600 of relocation expense for Dennis to move to Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Special Agent in Charge of the FBI-Jackson MS field office sent a memo to FBI HQ which argued that: *“Dennis, by virtue of his work in behalf of the Bureau, will continue to be tempted by organizations such as the John Birch Society who will want to selfishly exploit him. By Dennis relocating and furthering his education, it is felt that these temptations would be minimized and would assure his future stability.”*

Rev. Dennis acknowledged during newspaper interviews that he **continued** to be a proud life-long segregationist. Why? Because he accepted basic white supremacist ideology that blacks were mentally and morally inferior to whites.

Dennis's objection to the Klan was NOT because of its racist ideology. Instead, Dennis objected to the Klan's violent and criminal activities. NEVERTHELESS, the Birch Society hired Dennis as a Coordinator and as a speaker -- **so that they could use him to continue to defame our entire civil rights movement**(a goal shared by ALL racists and segregationists AND their enablers---like the JBS!). **Needless to say, neither Welch or the JBS "expelled" Delmar Dennis despite his unhidden racist viewpoints.**

10. OTHER JBS CONNECTIONS TO PROMINENT RACISTS-- INCLUDING MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT EXPELLED:

The JBS hired a well-known racist, Sheriff Jim Clark of Selma AL, to give speeches around the country via the JBS Speakers Bureau. They also hired Rev. Ferrell Griswold of Alabama. In 1963, Griswold contacted the FBI because he wanted the FBI to send him 500 copies of an FBI publication which he could hand out at his speeches. The FBI memo on the matter makes the following comments:

"Griswold was interviewed by Agents of the Birmingham office on 09-26-63. During that interview he advised he was a member of the local John Birch Society and attends meetings of that group regularly. ...Rev. Griswold stated he is a segregationist and is frequently invited to speak on the subject of constitutional rights and communism at local meetings of the Klan and other conservative organizations."

Notice that Griswold described the KKK as a "**conservative organization**" -- at the very time when the KKK was listed on the U.S. Attorney General's List of Subversive Organizations!

MAJ. GEN. EDWIN A. WALKER

Walker was another very prominent Bircher whose racist views and behavior never bothered the JBS.

In an August 4, 1963 speech before the Fifth Annual National Convention of the Christian Crusade in Oklahoma City, Walker declared that the Communists were behind "**all racial disorder, all racial riots...**" and he then added: "**The best thing for niggers for their own good, is to be separated.**"

On November 19, 1964, Walker was main speaker at an event sponsored by the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race at Whitworth College in Brookhaven MS. In a June 1965 speech to the American Conservative Club in Harrisburg PA, Walker declared that: "**I think I can match three good Americans in the KKK for every one in the Americans For Democratic Action or the Anti-Defamation League.**"

On July 4, 1965 Walker spoke at a rally in Baton Rouge LA sponsored by "United Conservatives" which actually was a front for the Citizens Councils of Louisiana (CCL). Other speakers at this event were John Rarick and Ned Touchstone. Touchstone was the editor of the CCL newsletter, "The Councilor". FBI files describe Touchstone as a KKK member and a "**rabid segregationist.**" [HQ 105-44536, #35]. Rarick was also a KKK member.

In October 1965, Walker met with United Klans of America Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton in Shreveport LA at which time Shelton "**offered General Walker the position of Grand Dragon of the UKA for the State of Texas.**" [FBI HQ 157-370-2, #345; also: 157-370-4, #328, 340X, 341, 377, 383].

"Later General Walker mentioned to someone that he was interested in the Klan position..." [HQ 157-370-4, #341, 11/1/65 SAC Birmingham to J. Edgar Hoover re: United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, page 1.]

Also in October 1965, Walker was the main speaker at the Pasco County (FL) Federation for Constitutional Government – which the FBI described as a front for the United Florida Ku Klux Klan of Dade County FL. [HQ 116-165494, #109]

The following comment by Walker was published on page 5 of the November 15, 1965 issue of Conde McGinley's New Jersey newspaper, "Common Sense". The House Committee on Un-American Activities described Conde McGinley's newspaper as "**almost exclusively a vehicle for the exploitation of ignorance, prejudice and fear**" and as "**a clearinghouse for hate propaganda throughout the country.**"

Walker's comment:

"I'll bet you will find more good Americans in the Ku Klux Klan than in the Americans For Democratic Action."

Note: Walker was the featured speaker at DOZENS of white supremacist events during the 1960's -- **but this never seemed to bother the JBS** and Walker was never "**expelled**" from the JBS--as Jim Smith would have us believe.

SENATOR JAMES O. EASTLAND

The JBS praised KKK-supported politicians such as Gov. Ross Barnett and Sen. James O. Eastland of Mississippi and Gov. George Wallace of Alabama and Governor Lester Maddox of Georgia and Cong. John Rarick of Louisiana.

The JBS published an annual "*Conservative Index*" which evaluated the voting behavior of all members of Congress. A racist Senator such as Sen. James O. Eastland received a score of **96** -- which meant that (in the JBS scheme of things) Eastland correctly understood our Constitution and he voted "*correctly*" according to its principles and values.

Eastland sought and received KKK support for his election campaigns—during the time when the KKK was listed on the *Attorney General's List of Subversive Organizations*. The FBI described Eastland in internal memos as "**a strong advocate of white supremacy**". This never bothered Robert Welch or the JBS.

The Special Agent in Charge of the Jackson MS FBI field office reported to HQ that Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, met Eastland on 10/31/66 at a motel...

"...at which time Shelton requested that Eastland help Shelton with his conviction for contempt of Congress in return for Shelton throwing the support of the United Klans of America behind Senator Eastland in his race to be re-elected Senator. According to Shelton, Senator Eastland was noncommittal on supporting Shelton during their face-to-face meeting, however, later that night telephonically contacted

Shelton and promised his assistance to Shelton in his case for contempt of Congress in return for Shelton's support in his race to be re-elected Senator."

In addition, in a letter written by Sheriff Lawrence Rainey addressed "To Whom It May Concern" he stated:

"I know for a fact that James O. Eastland helped prevent the trial of 16 other men and myself in Philadelphia MS."

Rainey was referring to the June 1964 murders of civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner in Neshoba County, Mississippi, also known as the "Mississippi Burning" (MIBURN) murders

Samuel H. Bowers, Imperial Wizard of the most violent Klan in our country, the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi, told a meeting of his Klan members that he had made a deal with Eastland. The deal was: if Bowers and the Klansmen would support Eastland's re-election, then ***"Eastland in turn would have the indictments dismissed against the 17 Neshoba County defendants."***

JBS member, Rev. Delmar Dennis, told the FBI that in Klan circles in the Meridian MS area, there was awareness that Eastland...

"...has been taking credit for the Federal Government dropping charges against those indicted in the Neshoba County slayings" and that Eastland...

"appeared at a [Klan] rally held in Forest MS and that Eastland had invited Sam Bowers, Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the KKK of Mississippi, (name deleted) Neshoba County Attorney, and himself to occupy the speaker's stand at the rally held in Forest MS. During the rally...Eastland stated that he would help the 17 defendants in the Neshoba County case and that he has been 'pulling strings for them'."

So—to put this into JBS parlance which Jim Smith can understand, the Birch Society associated itself with a powerful politician who was directly linked to a violent, subversive organization which had committed multiple felonies including murder BUT the JBS did **not** think Eastland was undeserving of their support or favorable commentary.

In fact, on July 3, 1962, Robert Welch sent a letter to Senator Eastland which informed the Senator that the Birch Society had spent several thousand dollars to include with its July 1962 *JBS Bulletin*, a copy of Eastland's speech entitled "*Is The Supreme Court Pro-Communist?*" which originally was published by the pro-segregation organization, The Patrick Henry Group, of Richmond VA.

Welch told Eastland that: **"...I agreed one hundred percent"** with the statements made by Eastland in the pamphlet.

Welch closed his letter to Eastland with:

"So let's hope that this increased distribution---to the very people throughout the country who will be most interested in reading your speech---will bring your great effort an added effectiveness which will make this cost seem well worthwhile. With admiration for both your patriotism and your courage, and with all good wishes, I am, Sincerely, Robert Welch."

CONG. JOHN R. RARICK

A 1966 FBI memo observes: ***"John R. Rarick has been identified by our informants as a Klan member in Louisiana."*** [HQ 56-3970].

Rarick served as a Louisiana state district court judge from 1961 to 1966. As a judge, Rarick condemned racial integration as sacrilegious and blasphemous and ***"a tool of the Communist conspiracy."*** He also described integration as a ***"a torture tactic designed only so 'some bureaucrat can satisfy himself that he has punished the human race by forcing them into an unnatural relationship of racial proportions. ' "*** [Spartanburg SC Herald, 08-04-71, page 1]

In 1968, Rarick endorsed George Wallace for President. In 1990, Rarick supported Klan member David Duke's candidacy for U.S. Senator against the Democrat J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.

Rarick was a friend of Louisiana State Senator William M. Rainach. Rainach was the Chairman of the Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee to Maintain Segregation. **Of course none of this bothered Robert Welch or the**

JBS. Rarick was asked to write articles for the JBS newsweekly, *Review of the News* as well as for their monthly “*American Opinion*” magazine -- and the JBS invited Rarick to speak at least one of their National Council meetings. The JBS scored Rarick as 87% on its June 21, 1972 issue of *Conservative Index*.

GEORGE WALLACE CAMPAIGN

Jim Smith claims that only “*a few JBS members*” supported Wallace. Aside from being a preposterous comment, let’s recall that Jim Smith has told us that a mere three people supposedly connected to Martin Luther King Jr. was totally unacceptable and deserving of our outrage because Jim and the JBS describe those 3 persons as being linked to “*Communists*”.

Before addressing Jim’s “*a few JBS members*” comment let’s first address Jim’s assertion that I “*never mention*” that “*Democrats supported Wallace*”.

Jim is correct. I never said a single word about the political party affiliations of the individuals who supported Wallace EXCEPT to mention that an entirely new third party (American Independent Party) was created specifically to promote Wallace’s candidacy AND, furthermore, JBS members and endorsers were the primary movers and actors in that new Party and its offshoots.

Now, let’s briefly address Jim’s “*few JBS members*”.

I could easily devote 10-15 pages to summarizing all the JBS members and endorsers who were Wallace supporters and officials of his campaigns but due to limited space, let’s just start with the following listings.

Codes shown in parentheses below:

AO = JBS American Opinion Bookstore Operator

CL = JBS chapter leader

CO = JBS Coordinator

NC = JBS National Council member

SL = JBS section leader

W=Writer or Editor for JBS publications

WCKK= JBS member who also was involved in White Citizens Council or KKK

BIRCHERS WHO WERE EITHER A STATE CHAIRMAN OR STATE COORDINATOR OR STATE VICE-CHAIRMAN OR THEY RAN LOCAL WALLACE OFFICES

Larry Abraham – Western Regional Campaign Director

James Toevs – Eastern Regional Campaign Director

Harry Hutchinson—CA (Kern County organizer)

Glenn Parker--CT

Elmer G. Nicks—FL

Dr. William C. Douglass Jr.—FL

Ben Klassen—FL (AO)

Joseph Stamp Jr.—ID

Mark Anderson—ID (CO for Idaho and Utah)

Mel Jones—IL (CO)

Laurence Bunker—MA (NC)

Floyd G. Kitchen—MO

Reid Stubbs—NC (WCCK, AO)

Dr. John H. DeTar—NV

Gene Sandusky—NV (SL)

Robert J. Crow—PA

Bard Logan—TX

Dr. Robert Thompson—UT

T. Coleman Andrews Jr.--VA

BIRCHERS WHO WERE PLEDGED ELECTORS FOR WALLACE (BY STATE)

CO=W.H. Vickers (SL)

CO=Rev. James Miller (CL)

CT=Harold Greene (AO)

CT=Monroe Sherrow

CT=Glenn Parker (CL, SL)

FL=William Focht

FL=Mary Lee Humphries

GA=R. Carter Pittman (WCCK)

IA=Robert H. Buffington (NC)

IA=Robert Dilley

IL=Charles Urban

IL=Patricia Snyders

IL=Carter Hoffman

IN=Hubert Hinds (CL)

KS=Ellen Myers

LA=Dr. S.R. Abramson

MA=Thomas DePalo (CL)

MA=Ruth Wood (husband Wallis Natl Director, JBS TRAIN front group)

MA=Harold Collins

MA=Laura Davidson

MI=William Ushman

MO=James Kernodle (SL)

MO=James H. Sutherland (WCCK)

MT=Robert May (SL)

NC=Lloyd Bailey

NJ=Ernest Bradow

NJ=Dr. Francis Pflum

NJ=Dr. Forster Ruhl

NJ=Alan Stang (W)

NV=John McCoy

NV=Daniel Hansen

NY=Dave Syme (WCCK)

NY=Jack Ross (SL)

NY=Gerard F. Greene Jr. (WCCK)

OH=William Shepler

OK=Billy James Hargis

PA=Glenn Canfield Jr.

PA=Bernard Yuzavich

PA=Robert J. Crow

PA=Dr. Charles Provan (CO)

PA=Mary R. Smith (W)

TX=Edwin A. Walker (WCCK)

TX=Dan Smoot

OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFO RE BIRCHERS INVOLVED IN GEORGE WALLACE CAMPAIGNS

- January 16, 1967 = JBS member Kent Courtney (LA) and former Sheriff and JBS speaker, Jim Clark (Selma AL) and Klansman Asa Carter confer with Wallace in Montgomery AL. They discuss creating *Wallace For President* organizations in every state. Courtney appointed many of the organizers for Wallace in each state. [*Birmingham AL News*, 1/25/67]
- In July 1967, Birchers Kent Courtney and Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker manned the *Wallace For President* booth at the 1967 annual New England Rally for God, Family and Country in Boston, MA.
- Bircher Gary Allen was a speechwriter for Wallace
- Birchers who were Foreign Affairs Advisers to Wallace: Dwight Coffman—OH and Hilaire DuBerrier—ND
- Willard S. Voit—CA) a lifetime JBS member, resigned as Vice-President of Robert Welch, Inc. (publishing arm of JBS) to work as unpaid volunteer for Wallace. Voit also resigned from the California GOP State Central Committee and from United Republicans of California to re-register in the newly formed American Independent Party.
- JBS National Council member Floyd Paxton was a Wallace supporter

- MAJOR financial contributors include the following Birchers:
 - J.W. Scott—ND (\$6000)
 - Dr. Thomas Parker—SC (\$4440) – JBS National Council member
 - Samuel J. Agnew—WA (\$6000) – JBS National Council member
 - Dan Agnew—WA (\$2000)

THIS IS THE TYPE AND VOLUME OF EVIDENCE WHICH JIM SMITH WANTS TO DISMISS AND DE-VALUE AS JUST “***A FEW JBS MEMBERS***”. Imagine what Jim Smith would have written if **ALL** these people had supported CPUSA leader Gus Hall for President!

MY ALLEGED PREVIOUS COMMENTS RE: THE JBS BEING

“ALWAYS BEEN OPPOSED TO RACISM”

In my Introduction I mentioned that one of the dishonest debate tactics used by Birchers like Jim Smith is their inability to accurately summarize or paraphrase what a perceived critic or opponent believes or has written. **This is an excellent example.** There is a reason why Jim Smith and other Birchers never actually QUOTE something I have written (or never insert a link to some webpage containing my purported comments). **Smith and his fellow Birchers prefer to dishonestly attribute some bogus comments or assertions to me.**

It is true that in previous years, I defended the JBS against the charge that it was a racist organization. However, I never wrote that the JBS has *“always been opposed to racism”* because that is ludicrous!

The distinction which I attempted to make in the past is that many decent, honorable, and principled people joined the JBS over the decades so a fair-minded person should not make a broad pejorative generalization about the character of the entire JBS organization.

However, as Jim Smith knows, I have recently changed my mind about this matter and I written several times that I will no longer defend the JBS against the charge that it is racist. **There are 3 reasons why I changed my position:**

- (1) The behavior of JBS members like Jim Smith. Deliberately mis-representing what I have written makes it painfully obvious that Jim (and other Birchers) are NOT genuinely interested in any amicable or factual discussion about anything. And since other JBS members behave exactly the same way as Jim, I no longer think it is wise or useful to defend the JBS.

(2) The Birch Society has NEVER retracted or modified its totally false assertions and conclusions about our civil rights movement. Instead, the Birch Society has CHOSEN to present a FALSE narrative for 6 decades which no mainstream conservative organization or publication believes. **Consequently, it seems to me that it is time to draw the logical conclusion from their refusal to correct the historical record.**

(3) Birchers like Jim Smith are profoundly ignorant about JBS history – as I have demonstrated above. But since they are NEVER willing to admit error, **I see no point in defending them any longer.**